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Patrons: (International) Kenneth Cox, (Tasmania) Her Excellency the Governor of Tasmania, Kate Warner

We Have a New Board!



And these are not them.....

But we hope to introduce you shortly! Our new Board of Directors was ratified at the AGM and had their first meeting last weekend. They are Belinda Neilson, Carolyn Watson-Paul, Ant Dry, Graeme McShane, Peter Gordon and Steve Green. The board provides vision, experience, direction and ideas. Our old Chairman Geoff is now formally called General Manager.

Sunday 15th October

Social Meeting EVRG at 2pm **Calendar** Wednesday 11th October First Cruise Ship!

Saturday 21st Oct Cherry Blossom Festival EVRG at 10-3pm

See us at: emuvalleyrhodo.com.au

Welcome

A colourful spring rhodo garden welcome to new members Kathryn Brodie, Stan & Joan Warneke, Peggy Bernard, Adrian Pascalls, Carolyn & Marc Watson-Paul, Sandra & Darrel Grogan, Josephine & Richard Rutherford, Dr Roopa Mulik, John & Glenda Fawbert and Maria Bull & Mary Batch.



With this Newsletter comes a copy the our Chairman's report for 2016/17 delivered at our Annual General Meeting on the 10th September 2017. If you would like a copy of the audited financial report, please let me know and I will send you one.

The members at our AGM ratified the standing committees for 2017/18, being:

- ♦ Horticulture: Juanita Wood, Trevor Walmsley, Ivan Johnston, Maurie Kupsch.
- **Hospitality:** Anne Holloway, Marylin Jacques, Kay Shadbolt, Audrey Weeks, Anne Jones, Kate Hewitt.
- Infrastructure: Ray Tavner, Pete Stratford, Maurie Kupsch, John Moore, Kevin Walters, John Englund.
- **Publicity:** Kathy Gordon, Geoff Wood, Sue Johnson.
- Social: Pete Stratford, Sam Biggins, Ethel Tavner, Deann Brooks.
- Work, Health & Safety: Steve Locke, Geoff Wood, Kay Shadbolt, Juanita Wood

MANAGEMENT GROUP: consists of our curator Maurie Kupsch, General Manager, Horticulture Manager and Administration Officer, and the manager from each of the above committees (which the committees will appoint). As our new constitution allows for up to 12 members, we received two nominations from the floor at our 2017 AGM, being John Englund and Mary Mc Connell. Both were endorsed.

We gratefully accepted the nomination of our existing Honorary Officers for: Librarian: Maurie Kupsch; Newsletter Editor: Nigel Burch; Membership Officer: Jill Charles; ARS Rep: Geoff Wood and Burnie Tourism Association Rep: Kathy Gordon.

The meeting agreed to maintain the membership fees effective 1st July 2018, being \$30 for single and \$50 for double (family membership, which includes 4 reusable guests passes, is double the applicable rate). *Sue Johnson*

Social Meeting Report for 10th September

Following on from our A.G.M. the social meeting was quite brief but none the less interesting.

Maurie presented some attractive blooms with an explanation on their location within the garden and their origins. His intimate knowledge of these plants is always amazing and while we may not retain as much of the information as we'd like to, some is always added to our combined knowledge of the fascinating array that we have the privilege of sharing at Emu Valley.

Only about four minute's duration, but really delightful was a video produced by Havenview School. When their Grade 1 and teachers visited our garden, some photos were taken by both pupils and teachers. With added narration by the pupils a selection of these photos were made into this short clip which delightfully shows the garden through the eyes of children. It is a credit to the class and their teachers.

Once again the top vote for rhododendron bloom was taken by Peter Gordon. At close second place was Maurie Kupsch. Top placing for the cut flower was an arrangement of Hellebores from Frank & Beris Medwin, with second going to an array of varied colour freesias grown by Melvie Moore.

Deann Brooks took home the Door prize and the winning raffle ticket was held by Graeme McShane, who also happens to be one of our very newly elected Board members. Welcome and congratulations Graeme. Combined with the Trade Table, \$66.00 was raised. *Pete*

In The Garden

Oh we're from Tigerland, a fighting fury, we're from Tigerland... WHAT A WIN! And I've still got a silly grin on my face as I walk around the place.

Out of the rhododendron seeds that I put into 'Kupsch's Cubbies' last month, only one variety has decided to show any form of life – for now . This is Rhododendron orbiculatum- (vireya). See below.





Now: (A month since being sown and we have a tinge of green)

Then: In five to six years time

Neet's top 3 gardening tips for the month:

- 1) Remove weeds from the lawn either by hand if you only have a few (aren't you lucky), making sure you get roots and all or by using a weed 'n' feed available on hose or granules. Once the weeds have died, thicken the lawn up by sowing seed.
- 2) Spring is the time to be on pest watch! Keep an eye on new growth as the aphids, thrip and lace bug are the repeat offenders every year along with other critters of course. The lady birds can only do so much so to get on top of this before it gets out of control is the best way, and can be treated with confidor or pyrethrum or if you only have a few plants to save, perhaps you could make up your own mix. 2 cups of vegetable oil and half a cup of washing up detergent and mix together. This then is the concentrated white oil. Two dessert spoons (30mls) of the concentrated mix per litre of water should do the trick.
- 3) Trim and tidy all flower heads from winter, fertilize plants and shrubs to give them an extra kick as they come into their most important flowering time and when planting in new areas, add a handful of organic matter to the soil and dig in well. Any extra nutrients that you can give your garden will always be of benefit in the long run.

Happy Gardening everyone and see you at our Cherry Blossom Celebration day. Neet

General Manager's Report

On behalf of all members a big welcome to EMU Valley's Board of Directors -- Belinda Neilson, Carolyn Watson-Paul, Ant Dry ,Graeme McShane, Peter Gordon and Steve Green. The Board met for the first time on 3 October. It is a truly talented team and I am sure Emu Valley will benefit under their guidance

Cherry Blossom Celebration - if you have any flyers or posters you are not able to distribute please hand them into the office and likewise if you need some just call in and collect them. Also if you are able to come on 21 October it would be helpful if you could show your membership card as it will make it easier for the volunteers collecting the entry fee.

The Australian Rhododendon Society will be holding its annual conference at Emu Valley on Saturday 4 November. The main part of the conference will take place from 1130 to about 1p.m and all members are invited to come along and join in with the various delegates from other gardens. *Geoff* 0427722060 / geoffreywood@me.com

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R. oreodoxa var. fargesíí

Rhododendron fargesii was first discovered by Pere Farges (so named after him) between 1891 and 1894 at Techenkeou-tin in east Sichuan. Also by E. H. Wilson in western Hupeh and in Sichuan. In 1932 it was again collected at Pei-ma shan, Mekong-Yangtze Divide, north-west Yunnan growing in mixed forests at elevations of 2000-4000 metres.

Usually a shrub from 1-6 metres in the wild but in cultivation may only reach half this height. The leaves are oblong-elliptic, the upper surface olive-green and underside pale glaucous and covered with minute pimples. Flowers can be white, pink, rose or deep rose with or without spots and will have between 5

and 10 per truss. Rhododendron fargesii is closely related to R. oreodoxa and has been made a variety of the latter.

At Emu Valley we grow R. oreodoxa var. fargesii in Sichuan and Yunnan and it flowers mid-September onwards. More plantings in Hupeh will take place soon. It can be viewed on the right hand side of the Noel Sullivan Walk in Yunnan just past the yellow flowered R. sinofalconeri. *Maurie*

The Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden is proudly sponsored by:





Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden Inc.

PO Box 39 Burnie, Tasmania 7320